File No. 41/2/48-Public.

Collection No.

1948 .

Government of India.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Public Section.

Index

D-S

Pros. Serial Nos. Nos 8

Correspondence.

Subject.

INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG-
INSULT OF-

Previous References.

Later References.

41/2/48

S. 97 (Unbleached).

MFP—40 S&P—6862-A—(M-62)—28-7-47—5,00,000.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ministry of Home Affairs.

Public.

S.No.1 p1/c

The F.R. is a complaint from Amritsar by Mr. Nagarmal Ghoriwala, Textile Manufacturer etc. regarding ~~the~~ insult of Indian National Flag by the members of R.S.S.S. He states that on January 26 when the Indian National Flags were hoisted by the Public, they were forcibly removed, torn and trodden by the members of R.S.S.S., but the local authorities do not seem to have taken any action against the culprits. Mr. Nagarmal further goes on to state that if this sort of goondaism is allowed to spread it is likely to endanger the public life and suggests that suitable action be taken in the matter. The torn National Flag which is said to have been found lying in a drain has been sent by him.

The F.R. may be forwarded to the Govt. of East Punjab to whom it relates for favour of ~~disposal~~ remarks.

A draft is put up for approval.

RAS 20.2.48

BMS 21.2.48

AS(CW)

A V Raman 23/2/48

S. No. 2 p2/c Issue

S.No.3 pp3-8/c

* p.1/cor. F.No.109/47-Pub.(B).

This is in response to our express letter No.F.109/47-Pub(B), dated 21.10.1947, in which information regarding dishonouring of Indian National Flag was sought from all Provincial Govts.

This information was required in order to reply a question in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Autumn Session 1947 by Shri S. Nagappa.

p.31/Cor. No.109/47-Pub(B)

The detailed necessary information could not be collected in time by the East Punjab Government vide their telegram No.1209-PG/47-570 dated 12.11.1947 and the question was replied without further waiting.

For information only. p.2/Cor.

Reply to our letter at S.No.2 is awaited from the P.G. who may be reminded as in the draft put up for approval.

AS(CW)

RAS 9.4.48 BMS 9.4.48 S. No. 4 Issue p9/c A V Raman 10.4.48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(5)

Serial Nos.5-6

pp 10-11/c

S.No. 5 For information with reference to our letter at S.No.2.

p.2/Cor.

S.No. 6 Ministry of Defence who are concerned with the flying of National Flag on the Red Fort may, in the first instance, be asked to offer their comments. They may also be requested to try to remove the defects as pointed out by the Editor, Caravan. A draft letter is put up for approval. Interim reply to the Editor, Caravan may also be sent as in the DFA.

RAS 8.5.48
BNR 8.5.48
AS(Pub)

A V Raman
11.5.48

pp 12-13/c

S. NOS. 7-8 Issue

p.12/Cor.

No reply to our memo. at S.No.7 has yet been received from the Ministry of Defence who may be reminded as in the draft put up for approval.

RAS 22.6.48
BNR 23.6.48
AS(Pub)

A V Raman
27.6.48

pp 14/c

SERIAL NO 9 - (ISSUE)

S. No. 10 p 15/c

For information only.

RAS 24.7.48
BNR 24/7
U.S(Pub)

A V Raman
24.7.48

R.D.S 20/7

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 1

NAGARMAL GHORIWALA
Textile Manufacturer, Tea and Colour Merchant
and Commission Agent,

Katra Ahluwalia,
Amritsar the 27th January 1948.

श्रीमान गृहमन्त्री केन्द्रीय सरकार नई देहली.

माननीय !

सेवा में सविनय निवेदन है कि अमृतसर में हमारी राष्ट्रीय पताका का राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ द्वारा बहुत अपमान हो रहा है। कोई भी राष्ट्रीय पताका नहीं लगा सकता, अगर कोई लगाता है तो उस की राष्ट्रीय पताका फाड़ कर बहुत गंदी नालियों में फेंक दी जाती है।

अभी कल ता० २६ जनवरी को लोगों ने स्वतन्त्रता दिवस के ऊपर राष्ट्रीय पताका अपनी २ दुकानों पर लगायी थी मगर राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ वालों ने जबरदस्ती तमाम दुकानों से राष्ट्रीय पताकाओं को उतार कर फाड़ दी तथा गंदी नालियों में फेंक दिया। यहां के स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने कोई कारवाई गुंडाइज़म करने वालों के खिलाफ़ नहीं की। जिस का हमें अफसोस है- अगर इसी तरह इनके गुन्डापने को रोकने की कारवाई न की गई - तो शाहरी ज़िन्दगी भी बरबाद हो जायेगी — मैं आप से आशा करता हूं कि इस बारे में उचित कारवाई करें गे॥

इस पत्र के साथ एक राष्ट्रीय पताका जो कि नाली में से निकाली गई है, आप की सेवा में भेजी जाती है।

आप का सेवक :—
नागरमल घोड़ीवाला

S. No. 2

ISSUED On 24/2 Initial R & I (CONF.)

No.F.41/2/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 24 February 1948.

Confidential
Registered

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of
East Punjab,
Jullundur.

Received in ... on 23/2/48.
Case No. 427
Typed by ...
Compared by ... Sir.

Subject: Indian National Flag-
Insult of-

I am directed to forward herewith a letter dated the 27th January 1948 from Mr. Nagarmal Ghoriwala, Amritsar, complaining that the Indian National Flag was insulted by the members of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh. ~~I am to~~ kindly ~~request that~~ an enquiry into the matter may be made and the results communicated to this Ministry as early as possible.

The torn flag received with the letter is also sent herewith.

I have etc.,

A.S. (Pb).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 3

3

No.1050-PG-48/10849.

From

M.R.Sachdev,Esquire,CIE.,OBE.,ICS.,
Chief Secretary to Government,East Punjab.

To

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Dated Simla-E,the 22nd March 1948.

Subject:- Dishonouring of Indian National Flag - Starred Assembly Question No.9.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with East Punjab Government telegram No.1209-PG-47-570, dated the 12th November 1947,on the subject noted above, I am directed to state that a report was called for from all Deputy Commissioners in East Punjab. 9 of them have reported no incidents. The only districts in which incidents occured are Gurgaon, Ferozepore, Karnal and Simla. A copy each of the reports submitted by them is forwarded herewith. In the circumstances explained by the Deputy Commissioner concerned no action would appear to be necessary.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Under Secretary Political,
for Chief Secretary to Government,East Punjab.

KUMAR

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

4

(7)

Copy of letter No.7180, dated the 4th November, 1947, from the Deputy Commissioner,Karnal to the Chief Secretary to Government,East Punjab,Simla-E.

Subject:- Starred Assembly Question No.9.

I have the honour to refer you to your letter No.906-PG-47/5150, dated the 29th October, 1947, on the subject noted above and to say that in this district one Dr. Mohd Sadiq, Assistant Surgeon, Panipat, took down the Indian Union Flag, which had been hoisted at the hospital building. Subsequently he apologised and undertook to fly two Indian Union Flags at the hospital building, which undertaking he duly carried out.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(8) 5

Copy of memorandum No.1367/SHW, dated the 20th November 1947, from the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore to the Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab, Jullundur.

Subject:- Dishonouring of Indian National Flag - Starred Assembly Question No.9.

Reference correspondence resting with my Memorandum No.1345/SHW, dated the 15th November, 1947.

2. I asked Mr. F.B. Manley, Assistant Inspector General, Railway Police, who was at that time Senior Superintendent of Police, Ferozepore, to let me know the circumstances under which the Flag was hauled down and the authority under whose order this was done. I enclose a copy of his reply, which would show that the flag was hauled down under Mr. Manley's order, and not under that of Sardar Bahadur Santokh Singh. Since, however, Sardar Bahadur Santokh Singh was the Headquarter Addl: Supdt: of Police and in charge of the Police Lines, and was probably present when the flag was hauled down, the impression created was that the order had been given by him.

Enclosure on reverse.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

16 (9)

Copy of a Confidential D.O. No.140-ST, dated the 18th November, 1947, from F.B.Manley,Esquire,I.P.,Assistant Inspector General,Government Railway Police, East Punjab, Camp Ferozepore, to Rai Bahadur Vishan Bhagwan, Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.

Reference your confidential D.O. No.1343/SHW, dated 15.11.1947.

2. As you know the Indian National Flag that was ceremoniously hoisted at Police Lines Ferozepore on the 15th of August 1947, was hoisted at a ceremony celebrating the Independence of India and was hoisted at Police Lines simply because that happened to be a convenient place. The flag was not hoisted on the regular Police Lines Pole. After the ceremony therefore the flag had in any case to be hauled down. This was under my orders and not under the orders of S.B. Santokh Singh. The Indian National Flag was not flown in Police Lines after August the 15th, also on my orders. I gave orders to this effect because, as far as I can remember, before August the 15th the I.G. Punjab had issued instructions to the effect that after August the 15th no flag should be flown in Police Lines until the new Governments had issued orders as to what flags should be flown there as it was not known whether the new Governments would order their National Flags to be flown or some other flags, i.e. Police flags. Also,before August the 15th, I wrote a letter to the D.I.G./Jullundur Range on this very question asking what flag it was intended should be flown in Police Lines after August the 15th, but up to my departure from the district no reply had been received and therefore no flag continued to be flown.

3. In other words no question of disrespect of the Indian National Flag arises as the flag was hoisted on August the 15th was hoisted purely for the purpose of the ceremony and no flag was flown in Police Lines after August the 15th as I was awaiting instructions as to what sort of flag should be flown.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(19) 7

Copy of a D.O.No.901/St,dated Gurgaon,the 23rd August, 1947, from Sardar Bahadur Sardar Narinder Singh,O.B.E., Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon, to Sardar Nawab Singh,I.C.S., Home Secretary to Government,East Punjab, Ellerslie,Simla-E.

Kindly refer to your D.O. No.64-HG-47/102, dated the 20th August, 1947.

2. I took up the matter with the Brigadier Palwal and he told me that according to instructions received from Delhi, National Flag was to be hoisted in military units only at places where Union Jack was flying . Company Headquarters always had their regimental flag and they were not entitled to hoist a National Flag.

3. I discussed the matter with the President of the District Congress Committee Rao Gajraj Singh and he tells me that the flag was actually hoisted by the local congress committee on the Town Hall and was taken down at the instance of the military occupying that building. He agrees with me that there is no point in pursuing the matter further. I have discussed the x case with Commissioner also and he is of the same opinion.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(11) 8

Copy of memorandum No.184-PG, dated the 7th February, 1948, from the Deputy Commissioner, Simla to the Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab, Jullundur.

Subject:- Dishonouring of Indian National Flag.

Reference your memorandum No.1887-PG-47/614, dated the 12th February, 1948.

2. A procession was taken out on 29th December, 1947 by about seventy refugees including about 10 refugee ladies against the decisions of the Urban Resettlement Committee, Simla. The procession started from Subzi Mandi and marched through Lower Bazar. The refugees delivered speeches against the local authorities and the aforesaid committee for not paying any regard to the refugees when alloting shops in Simla. To avoid congestion and in compliance with the orders of the Additional District Magistrate, the processionists when they reached the junction of Lower Bazar and the Mall in from of the Telegraph Office, were advised not to proceed on to the Mall. They paid no heed and marched towards Scandal Point. The processionists were again advised by the local police headed by Inspector Rowe near the Davico's Restaurant and the shop of Messrs Roy Brothers. The procession stopped and Joginder Singh, the Organisor delivered a short speech condemning the committee and the local police for not allowing the procession on the Mall. After the speech a Sikh boy snatched the National Flag from the hands of a girl who was carrying it and shouted out to others to march ahead. In doing so the flag came down into the hands of the boy. The procession then marched to the residence of the Hon'ble Premier accompanied by the police party headed by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. There a deputation of five persons saw the Hon'ble Premier, reported their grievances and complained against the local police for dishonouring the National Flag.

Under the orders of the Hon'ble Premier, the Superintendent of Police got the allegations enquired into by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, at the spot. He recorded the statement of un-interested witnesses like the Secretary of the Devico's and one of the representatives of Messrs Roy Brothers. His findings and personal enquiries by the Superintendent of Police revealed that the refugees reported exaggerated facts to the Hon'ble Premier. In fact no police officer insulted the National Flag nor was there any such occasion when the procession was going on peacefully.

There has been no reaction in the public to this incident and that act of the refugees who were not supported or accompanied by local persons, was highly criticised by the public and the local prominent persons.

78.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

1026/

LRDS. 14/4 S. No. 4

42

No.F.41/2/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 13 April 1948.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of
East Punjab,
Simla-E.

Subject: Indian National Flag- Insult to-

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated the 24th February 1948 on the subject mentioned above and to enquire ~~xxxx~~ when a reply thereto may be expected.

I have etc.,

A.S.(Pb).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No. 5

10

(13)

No.3138-PG-48/22929.

From

M.R.Sachdev, Esquire, CIE., OBE., ICS.,
Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab.

To

The Assistant Secret ry to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

D.3256/48—Pb
3—5—48

Dated Simla-E, the 28th April, 1948.

Subject:- Indian National Flag-Insult to

Sir,

p.9/Cor.

With reference to your letter No.F.41/3/48-Publi dated the 13th April 1948, on the subject noted above, I am directed to inform you that the District Magistrate, Amritsar has reported that one Bhagat Ram son of Munshi Ram of Gokal market, Amritsar who was responsible for tearing and dishonouring the National flag on 26th January 1948 was subsequently arrested and is still under detention. Five of his companions were also arrested under section 107/151 and are now standing their trial.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Under Secretary Political,
for Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab

Sharma

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. b

Grams : DELHIPRESS . CONNAUGHT CIRCUS . Post Box No. 17 . NEW DELHI . Phone : 7875

11

Caravan

(14)

1st May, 1948.

D. 3308/48—14
5—5—48

The Secretary to the
Government of India,
Home Department,
NEW DELHI

Dear Sir,

I have to point out a very unsatisfactory arrangement about hoisting the national flag on the Red Fort of Delhi.

Since August 15, 1947, there has been very marked slackness and incompetence in putting up this flag. For days together there is only one pice of rag hanging from the flag-pole which bears no resemblance to any flag, national flag the least. Then it appears that the location of the flag is changed at the whim of the officer from one gate to another and for some days it is altogether absent. Sometimes without any rhyme or reason the flag is flows half-mast e.g. on 26th April, 1948 at about 7 a.m. it was flying half-mast and only at 9 or 10 it was at its usual position. Also for 25 days in the month, the flag put up is a faded and torn one which is a matter of great disgrace not only to the authorities but to the nation as a whole.

I think that the flag on the Red Fort has a special significance, much more than anywhere else in India. It was actually slogan of Netaji's forces, I.N.A., (Dilli Chalo aur Lal Kile Par Jhanda Lahrao), and it is a matter of shame that the authorities should be so callous as to play with this emblem of national honour. As a citizen of Delhi, during all my life I have never seen such disgraceful scenes being played with the flag on the Red Fort. The Union Jack was always in the mornings in its glory and colors and always at the right place. But since the national flag has replaced it, there is a chaos in this matter and no body seems to be responsible for it.

I, therefore, request you to take prompt action in this matter and make some officer responsible for the correct and proper hoisting of this flag, for its being replaced whenever it wears out or gets torn in the wind or gets faded in the Sun. In any other country such disrespect shown to the national flag as has been shown to the flag on the Red Fort, would have resulted in the Court Martial of the man responsible for it. I will be glad to know what action you take about this. Expecting to hear soon from you,

Yours faithfully,

Vishwanath

Editor.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.7

No.F.41/2/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 13 May 1948.

(13)

ISSUED
On 13/5
Initial
R. & I. (A)

Memorandum.

Subject: Indian National Flag.

The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of letter dated the 1st May 1948 from the Editor, Caravan, New Delhi and to request that the allegations made therein may kindly be investigated and steps taken as early as possible to set the matter right, should they prove to be true. This Ministry would be glad to have a report after necessary action has been taken.

A.S.(Pb).

To

The Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi.

RECEIVED IN THE R. & I. (A)
On. 11/5
Case No.
Typed by
Compared by

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.8

(16)

13

No.F.41/2/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 12 May 1948.

To

The Editor,

Caravan,

Post Box No.17, Connaught Circus,

New Delhi.

Subject: Indian National Flag.

Sir,

p.11/Cor.

With reference to your letter dated the 1st May 1948 regarding National Flag, I am directed to say that the matter has been referred for investigation and suitable action to the authorities responsible for flying the National Flag on the Red Fort ~~for investigation. You will be addressed again as soon as investigation is completed.~~

I have etc.,

ar

A.S.(Pb).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No. 9

(14)

(17)

No.F.41/2/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 29th June 1948.

Issue 28/6

Memorandum.

~~The undersigned is directed to Reference~~

x P.12/Cor.

= this Ministry's memorandum of even number dated the 13th May 1948 regarding a complaint in connection with 'flying of National Flag on the Red Fort'. ~~and to enquire when a reply~~ ~~thereto may be expected.~~ ~~expedited~~ We should be grateful to have a reply in the matter

RECEIVED IN THE R. & I. (A)
On 28/6
Case No. 2191
Typed by Pa. A.
Compared by

ask

A.S.(Pb).

Ministry of Defence.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(18)

MESSAGE FORM

A. R. P./M. 3.

Date	Time at which despatch of message was completed.	Telephonist's Initials

Address :—

Text of Message :—

Time of origin of Message :—

Address from :—

Signature (of official authorising the despatch of an "out" message).

Serial No. of Incident (inserted in Control Room)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No. 10 Dy. No. 6296/48. Pub
S. 21.7.48.

Regr.No.4648/D.6

No.35341/P.S.6,
Government of India,
Ministry of Defence (Army Branch),
New Delhi, the 18th July 1948.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs No. F41/2/48-Public, dated the 13th May 1948 and to state that the matter has been investigated and necessary steps have been taken to enforce the highest importance to the flying of the National Flag over the Red Fort.

Unfortunately, flags that might stand the Sun and strong wind at the height at which they are flown over the Red Fort and yet last long are not available. Due to unavailability of flags made out of lasting material, at present, a new flag is purchased locally every two weeks and hoisted over the Red Fort. This arrangement, however, does not give satisfactory result as yet. Arrangements are in hand to procure flags of good material specially for flying over the Red Fort.

The statement made by the Editor of Caravan that "it appears that the location of the flag is changed at the whim of the officer from one gate to another and for some days it is altogether absent" is not quite correct.

The following paragraph from the letter of the S.S.O., Red Fort, who is responsible for flying of the flag will refute not only the above allegation but will also give an explanation for the incident of the flag flying at half mast on April 26th.

"The flags for Red Fort were indented on Ordnance Depot, but they are not yet manufacturing these of the required size. Therefore the flags are purchased locally and in the past the cost was paid from N.A.C. Fort Fund. Both Khadi and silk flags are tried but inspite of the high price charged by local dealers the flags available are very inferior quality. The life of an average flag at that height is hardly two to three weeks. The colour to certain extent fades away after a week's time and you will agree, it is not possible to change the flag weekly.

As for the incident of 26th April 48, the pully of its own started slipping the cord and it was entangled and the flag slided down to half mast position. No sooner it was noticed, the M.E.S. were put on the job but as lowering the flag pole from that difficult position takes time, the flag was shifted to the DELHI GATE where a flag pole is provided. When the flag pole at LAHORE GATE was repaired the flag was replaced back in its original position".

(V. M. BHIDE)
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Ministry of Home Affairs.